

REMARKS

The present Request for Continued Examination (RCE), Amendments and Remarks are in response to the Final Office Action dated December 12, 2007, in which the Office Action issued a rejection of claims 1-15. In this response, Applicant amends independent claims 1, 3, 8 and 9 to include the *new* limitations relating to inter alia the load being configured to reduce current draw from a power supply corresponding to the playback device when a mono headset is plugged into a headset jack of the playback device in the audio playback device or mobile communication device. The Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be placed in a state of allowance. No new matter has been added.

A. Prior Art Rejections (35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103)

The Examiner has rejected prior claims 1, 3-5, and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,433,209 to Kurosawa (hereinafter referred to as "Kurosawa"). The Examiner also rejected dependent claims 2, 6, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurosawa.

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 8, 9, and 12. The Applicant has cancelled claims 2, 11 and 13. Each of the independent claims includes inter alia the load being configured to reduce current draw from a power supply corresponding to the playback device when a mono headset is plugged into a headset jack of the playback device. Applicant respectfully submits that support for this limitation is provided in *inter alia* Paragraph 20 of the Published Patent Application, Pub. No. US 2005/0111670 A1.

Additionally, independent claim 1 includes the limitations that include a headset driver electrically coupled to the load, and a second load resistance equal to the first load. With respect to independent claim 9, additional limitations include placing another load between a second audio output from the headset driver and a headset jack of the audio playback device and matching the values of both the first load and the second load.

With respect to the Examiner's arguments, the Applicant respectfully submits that Kurosawa does not teach, describe or suggest the features of Applicant's

claims. The Office Action maintains that in Kurosawa, the resistor R2 prevents the signal from the output of driver A2 from directly contacting a ground (SR). Although Applicant acknowledges that R2 can prevent a signal from the output of driver A1 from directly contacting a ground (SR), in Kurosawa, the R2 (the load) in Kurosawa is used to divide the voltage source +B, then to decide the state of conductivity or non-conductivity of the transistor Q1. Thus, whether the R-channel signal will be mixed to the L-channel signal or not will be decided according to the conductivity or non-conductivity state of the transistor Q1. This means that Kurosawa does not consider the problem of excessive heating of the headset driver, Kurosawa designs the R2 (the load) only for dividing the voltage source +B to decide the state of conductivity of the transistor Q, but not for protecting the playback device from being damaged by the excessive electrical current. However, in contrast to Kurosawa, the Applicant's claims are directed to reducing current draw from a power supply of the playback device when a mono headset is plugged into the headset jack of the playback device, thus preventing the playback device from being damaged. Thus, the two inventions are entirely different.

Secondly, even if the load R2 in Kurosawa, as advocated by the Office Action, can prevent the signal from the output of driver A2 from directly contacting a ground, Kurosawa still cannot prevent excessive electrical current drawn from a power supply of the playback device because Kurosawa does not limit the value of the resistance R2. For example, if assuming R8 and R2 both to be 50Ω, and assuming the minimum impedance or resistance, then that headset driver is configured to drive 5KΩ. In this case, all the features Kurosawa disclosed may still work, but the electrical current drawn from A2 will be excessively strong, and this excessive electrical current may significantly damage the playback device.

In Applicant's independent claims 1 and dependent claims 14 and 15, the value of the load is limited, i.e., the value of the resistance (the load) is equal to or greater than the minimum impedance or resistance that headset driver is configured to drive. Therefore, Applicant's claims ensure that the playback device will not be damaged as a result of the electrical current from the audio output being too excessive.

B. Conclusion

In view of all of the foregoing, claims 1, 3-10, 12, and 14-15 overcome the Examiner's rejections herein and are now patentably distinct and in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If necessary, applicant requests, under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above-identified application and to charge the fees for a large entity under 37 CFR 1.17(a). The Director is authorized to charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s) or credit any overpayment(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-3001 of Kyocera Wireless Corp.

Respectfully Submitted;

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